Numb. 12.

MERCATOR:

OR,

Commerce Retrieved,

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *Britiſh* Trade, &c.

From Thurſday, June 18. to Saturday, June 20. 1713.

This Paper not leſs uſeful than before, notwithſtanding what has happen'd in the Parliament.
The Frauds of the Supporters of the Scheme *farther expoſed.*
The Deſign of this Paper farther laid down.

WHatever may have been thought fit to be done in Publick in relation to the Treaty of Commerce with France, ſhall not be the Subject of this Paper's Obſervation: Neither ſhall it be leſs uſeful to the Publick to go on to ſtate the Truth of Fact in this Matter, tho' the Parliament has for the preſent thought fit to lay by the farther Proceedings therein.

Perhaps it is a Fate upon us, that the Inconveniences and ill Conſequences of rejecting a Trade ſo evidently Beneficial to England, muſt be diſcovered by our Experience, and muſt be felt before they will be known; in which Caſe this Paper will have occaſion not only to mention thoſe Inconveniences beforehand, but to remind you of them when they happen.

The Wiſdom of Parliament in declining this Matter for the preſent, ſhall by no means be Impeached here; The Houſe may think fit hereafter to reaſſume the Enquiry into the Merit of the Caſe, and may find that convenient to be done, which they are now pleaſed to ſuſpend till another Seſſion.

This Paper will in the mean time apply it ſelf to expoſe and detect the Folly, to give it no worſe a name, of thoſe, who make this Debate, which is a Matter of meer Trade, be a Party-Cauſe; and care not at what Expence the Nation may refuſe a Treaty ſo apparently advantageous, if it may but anſwer the private Deſigns of thoſe, who ſeek to enflame and enrage the People.

To this purpoſe it will be no leſs uſeful now, than it was before, to let the People ſee, what fraudulent, unfair Practiſes, have been made uſe of to prejudice and poſſeſs their Minds againſt a Trade with France; and how every part of that Trade has been miſrepreſented, to make the Account appear leſs on one Side, and bigger on the other, than it really is: And therefore this Paper receiving no Interruption from the Turn, which that Affair has lately taken, ſhall go on where it left off, (viz.) To detect the Falſity and Frauds of a late Paper, entituled, *A Scheme of the Trade between England and France*, and of thoſe, who handed it about; that if the People of Britain ſhould come to be convinced, that the Loſs of the Trade is a real Damage to the Nation, they may ſee, how we came to be of another Opinion now, and what Methods have been taken to deceive them.

Neither is this all; But as there is no doubt, but this Matter will at ſome other time be thought worth while to be enquired into again, perhaps what may be ſaid in this Paper, may prepare the Minds of ſome People for other apprehenſions of things, and open their Eyes to many Particulars, which they may not now ſo clearly ſee, or ſo entirely be Maſter of; from whence at leaſt, this Good will happen, that their Judgments will be no longer Impoſed upon; but they will have the Matters of Fact clearly ſtated to them, to which, upon all Occaſions they may repair, and from which they will be the better enabled to Determine, when any thing of this Nature comes before them, what is, or is not, for the publick Advantage of their Country.

Were it not for this View of Uſefulneſs to the Publick, this Paper would have been diſcontinued, as the Debate thereof in the Houſe of Commons has been; but if the better informing the People, and the preventing the Abuſes publickly put upon them, may be obtain'd by this Paper, the end of its Publication will be fully anſwered, and 'tis hoped the Readers of it may not think their Time miſpent.

The Creditor-Side, in the Account of the Trade between England and France, comes now to be mentioned, as it is ſet out in the Paper ſo much ſpoken of, called *A Scheme of the Trade*, &c.

How unjuſtifiably they have acted, who ſet out that Paper, in giving a falſe Account of our Exports to France, which is rightly called the Debtor-Side of the Account, has been ſhewn already; But the Prevarications in the Importations are yet more groſs, and the value greater: As one part makes the Exportations to France ſeem leſs, ſo the other as dexterouſly makes the Importations from France ſeem more.

The laſt Paper hinted ſomething of the unfairneſs of the Method itſelf, (viz.) of publiſhing an Account of the Exports for the Port of London only on one Side,

Side, and ſetting againſt it the Imports of the whole Kingdom on the other; nor will their making a gueſs or wholeſale Allowance of one Third for the out-Ports on one Side anſwer for it, unleſs they had either made the ſame Allowance ſerve on both Sides, or extended the Account to the ſame period of Time, on both Sides without it; but acting fairly did not ſeem to ſuit the Deſign.

This is the way, by which ſome People go about to prove, that the Trade to France is to the Diſadvantage of England. None can envy them the Honour of ſuch Arguments. If theſe Methods ſhall prevail with this Nation finally to reject the Trade to France, the Ages to come muſt have a mean Opinion of our Penetration.

It was promiſed in the laſt *MERCATOR*, to Examine a little farther the Method taken in the ſaid Paper called A SCHEME, which was but touch'd at before. The Caſe is thus: Thoſe, who would ſupport it, produce a Paper, ſaid to be Signed by the Farmers of the Cuſtoms, containing an Account of the Importations of Wines, Brandies, and Linen from France, from Michaelmas 1667 to Michaelmas 1669; which they make to be very large, and from whence they would argue, that one half thereof muſt be the Rule of the Year 1669. Had this been a meer Gueſs, or had it been at any other time, the Calculation might have been leſs ſuſpected. But there lies ſo juſt an Exception againſt the Year 1667, and it was ſo well known to them, that it cannot be any thing but a meer Deſign.

It is well known, the Plague had in the Year 1665. put an univerſal Stop to all Trade, except ſuch as Neceſſity forc'd the People to for meer Proviſions. The next Year the Fire of London happened; and as the Fire began near the Waterſide, and among the Warehouſes and Cellars of the Merchants, the Quantity of Wines, as well as of other Goods, which were ſpoil'd or deſtroy'd, were very great. Add to this a War with France and Holland; by which the Trade both with France and Holland was ſtop'd, and which War was not ended till the Treaty at Breda, in July 1667.

Theſe Things might well ſuppoſe England to be ſo exhauſted of French Goods, as that the Importation of the next Year, (Viz.) 1667. muſt be prodigious great; and no rational Judgment can be made of the Trade to or from France by the Accounts of that Year. This is farther demonſtrated by the Article of the Brandies; which the Account of the Farmers aforeſaid makes for the ſaid two Years to be but 3775 Ton. But by an Account of the ſame Farmers for the laſt five Quarters of the ſaid two Years, (Viz.) from Midſummer 1668. to Michaelmas 1669. the whole Quantity of Brandy Imported amounts to no more than 680 Ton; and yet the SCHEME affirms, there was 4000 Ton of Brandy Imported from Michaelmas 1668 to Michaelmas 1669. And this is offer'd as one undeniable Evidence of the Fraud of that SCHEME.

There may be a parallel Caſe found out to illuſtrate this, and that is of the Exportation of Lead from England to France in the Year 1662, which amounts to, as by the Cuſtom-Houſe Book, a moſt prodigious and unuſual Quantity; (Viz.) From Michaelmas 1662 to Michaelmas 1663, there was Exported from England to France, 21,757 Fodder of Lead, which at 12l. per Fodder, as the SCHEME allows the Price to be, amounts to 261,084 l. It would be acknowledg'd very unfair, that this ſhould be given in as an Article of our uſual Export of Lead to France; for, as an Extraordinary Year is no juſt Rule to take a Medium of Calculation from, ſo no more is the Year 1662. to be taken as a proper time to Calculate our Exportations of Wine from France, the preceding Accident of a Plague, the Fire, and the War, joining together to make the Demand for Wines that Year extraordinary great.

This Paper ſhall go on to ſhew, that at no time whatever the Trade between Great Britain and France was eſteemed Diſadvantageous to this Kingdom, even as by thoſe Fraudulent Schemes, otherwiſe than as France has laid high and exorbitant Duties upon our Manufactures and other Goods, and the Manufactures and Goods from France paying at the ſame time low Duties here, and that as by the Treaty of Commerce the Tables are now turn'd, that the Manufactures and Goods of Great Britain are to pay low Duties in France, and the Manufactures and Goods of France are to pay high and exorbitant Duties in Britain, the Trade muſt of neceſſity be very much to our Advantage.

But this Paper ſhall alſo, in its courſe, be adapted to the ſeveral Trading Counties and Towns of Great Britain, to make appear, that now the War is ended, all the Goods and Commodities of France may be Imported into this Kingdom, eſpecially ſuch as are to be Re-exported, as Brandies, Linens, Silks, Paper, Laces, &c. ſince upon ſuch Re-Exportation all the additional Duties are drawn back; when at the ſame time not one Yard of the Woollen Manufactures of Great Britain, which are all prohibited in France, nor of our Fiſh and other Material Commodities, can be Imported into France, the Articles not being made effectual.

The Inſtances of this, ſhall be hereafter eſpecially applyed to the particular Trading-places of Great-Britain, who will thereby be able to judge, whether this is not the true ſtate of their Caſe; and whether the Dutch or Fleming will not have the Importation of our Manufactures into France, as they have had for above Twenty Years laſt paſt, and reſerve to themſelves the Dreſſing, Dying, and finiſhing of thoſe Goods; whereby the Manufacturers of Great-Britain will become Slaves to Foreigners, who will either ſet their own Price upon our Manufactures, or ſet up Fabricks of their own in Imitation of them; all which might have been avoided, by having an open and direct Trade with France.

ERRATA No. 11.

Col. 2. line 27. for 1609. read 1669. Col. 3. lin. 37. for *of* r. *for*. lb. l. 43. for *and* r. *or*. lb. the laſt Line but 7, for 1689 r. 1669.

Advertiſement.

This Day is Publiſhed,

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